

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUANDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038483

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 SUB IV. LINE 4 PARTIAL OMISSION)

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038483

DAKAR POUCH BANJUL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: X, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: ANNUAL U.S. POLICY ASSESSMENTS

1. POSTS ARE REMINDED THAT ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENTS
WILL BE DUE IN DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31.

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF REPORTS WILL BE FOUND
IN JQQ FAM 212.4. AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS POSTS' SUBMISSIONS
WILL BE USED AS BASIS FOR UPDATE OF PARA PAPERS.

THEREFORE, 1974 PARA PAPERS SHOULD BE USED AS POINT
OF DEPARTURE AND REFERENCE. THOSE POSTS WHICH HAVE
NOT YET RECEIVED COPIES OF NSC/AF-IG APPROVED PAPERS
FOR 1974 SHOULD REFER TO THEIR LAST YEAR'S SUBMISSIONS.

2. WITH A VIEW TOWARD MAKING OUR PARAS MORE USEFUL
TO THE NONEXPERT USER, AF WILL THIS YEAR EXPERIMENT
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WITH A SIMPLIFIED FORMAT, WHICH POSTS SHOULD FOLLOW

IN PREPARATION OF THEIR SUBMISSIONS. OUTLINE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

I. AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW: A SUCCINCT STATEMENT ASSESSING US POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN LIGHT OF CURRENT SITUATION IN HOST COUNTRY. COMMENT ON ANY KEY POLICY DECISIONS THAT WE ARE LIKELY TO FACE IN HOST COUNTRY DURING NEXT YEAR TO TWO. ATTENTION SHOULD BE CALLED TO ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN US INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES DUE TO DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE PAST YEAR.

II. EVALUATION STATEMENT: COUNTRY TEAM SHOULD APPRAISE

EFFECTIVENESS OF PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED COURSES OF ACTION TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF US OBJECTIVES. DO NOT LIMIT COMMENT ON HOW FAITHFULLY POST FOLLOWED COURSES OF ACTION, BUT ALSO INCLUDE REALISTIC ESTIMATE OF RESULTS.

III. US INTERESTS: UNLIKE PAST YEARS, INTERESTS SHOULD NOT BE SEPARATED BY CATEGORIES (POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, ETC.,) BUT SHOULD, RATHER, BE SET DOWN IN A SINGLE LIST BY ORDER OF PRIORITY. GREAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO DEFINE OUR INTERESTS AS CONCRETELY AS POSSIBLE. THE US HAS RELATIVELY FEW INTERESTS IN MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND LISTS SHOULD REFLECT THAT FACT.

IV. ISSUES: WE BELIEVE IT MORE LOGICAL TO STATE ISSUES EXISTING BETWEEN US AND HOST COUNTRY HERE RATHER THAN LATER ON IN PAPER, AS HAS BEEN PRACTICE IN PAST, BECAUSE UNRESOLVED ISSUES WILL HAVE BEARING ON OBJECTIVES AND COURSES OF ACTION SHOULD BE STATED CONCISELY BUT WITH SUFFICIENT EXPLANATION TO MAKE THEM INTELLIGIBLE TO THE NON-EXPERT READER. POSTS SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO BRING UP ISSUES FOR FEAR OF MAKING OUR RELATIONS WITH HOST COUNTRIES APPEAR LESS CORDIAL THAN IN FACT THEY ARE. ISSUES EXIST BETWEEN BEST OF FRIENDS AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT IF WE ARE TO FRAME OUR POLICIES RATIONALLY. IF THE HOST COUNTRY HAS IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US, THEY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THIS SECTION.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSION: A DISCUSSION OF THOSE ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT SCENE IN THE HOST COUNTRY THAT

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BEAR ON US INTERESTS OR THAT CAN BE EXPECTED TO HELP OR HINDER THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES. POSTS SHOULD NOT RESTRICT THEIR TREATMENT TO DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED. REMEMBERING THAT PARA PAPERS WILL BE USED FOR PLANNING FUTURE ACTIONS, THIS SECTION SHOULD BE ANALYTICAL, POINTING OUT TRENDS AND GIVING BEST ESTIMATES OF HOW EVENTS ARE LIKELY TO MOVE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

VI. OBJECTIVES: OBJECTIVES, LIKE INTERESTS, SHOULD BE LISTED BY PRIORITY AND NOT DIVIDED BY CATEGORY. INCLUDE ONLY OBJECTIVES TOWARD WHICH SOME PROGRESS COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PROBABLE RESOURCE LEVELS. LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES, TOWARD WHICH OUR POLICIES MAY BE GENERALLY AIMED, BUT WHOSE REALIZATION WILL PROBABLY LIE IN THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE, (E.G., SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SOME OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES) WOULD BETTER BE DISCUSSED IN THE AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW. IT SHOULD ALWAYS BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE PARA EXERCISE IS TO HELP US PLAN THE ALLOCATION OF FINITE RESOURCES WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME FRAME. THE "OBJECTIVES" SECTION OF A PARA PAPER

IS NOT, THEREFORE, THE PROPER PLACE FOR THE DISCUSSION OF LONG RANGE POLICY ORIENTATION OR OF GOALS THAT MAY TAKE DECADES OR LONGER TO REACH. IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES SHOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH ULTIMATE POLICY GOALS AND WILL, IN MOST CASES, CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF THEM. IF "SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC GROWTH" IS TOO LARGE AND VAGUE AN OBJECTIVE TO GUIDE US IN PROGRAMMING RESOURCES, "EXPANSION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION" MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, BE A RATIONAL OBJECTIVE TOWARD WHICH WE COULD MAKE A RESOURCE INPUT IN THE PARA TIME FRAME AND WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE LARGER GOAL. WHERE POSSIBLE, THE SPECIFIC TIME FRAME OF OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE MENTIONED, E.G., "REDUCTION OF TARIFFS ON US IMPORTS (FALL 1976 SESSION OF LEGISLATURE.)"

VII. COURSES OF ACTION: THIS SECTION IS THE CRUX OF THE PARA PAPER AND THAT WHICH DIFFERENTIATES IT FROM OTHER TYPES OF ANALYTICAL UNDERTAKINGS. IT SHOULD ADDRESS THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION OF WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT YEAR WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR LIMITED PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS IN HOST COUNTRIES AND TO REACH THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES WE HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES. LISTS SHOULD ENCOMPASS ALL SORTS OF ACTIONS, INCLUDING INTERNAL MISSION MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL QUESTIONS, AS WELL AS ACTIONS THAT WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT RATHER THAN BY THE POST. POSTS SHOULD NOT BE HESITANT ABOUT PROPOSING IMAGINATIVE NEW DEPARTURES OR, ON THE OTHER HAND, OF STICKING TO PAST PRACTICES, IF THEY ARE STILL THE MOST APPROPRIATE. THE ONLY ESSENTIAL CRITERIA ARE: HAS THE PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION A GOOD CHANCE OF HELPING, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, USG ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES? CAN WE AFFORD IT?

VIII. RESOURCE GUIDANCE: SAMPLE FORMAT AND INSTRUCTIONS

FOR PREPARATION RESOURCE TABLE BEING POUCHED. EACH YEAR
A NUMBER OF POSTS OMIT RESOURCE TABLE. THIS IS ESSENTIAL
ELEMENT IN PARA PROCESS AND MUST BE INCLUDED IN SUBMISSION.

3. FOR LOURENCO MARQUES AND LUANDA: BUREAU
REALIZES THAT ANY PARA EFFORT THIS YEAR FOR MOZAMBIQUE
AND ANGOLA MUST COPE WITH MANY UNCERTAINTIES BUT BELIEVES
EFFORT NEVERTHELESS ESSENTIAL TO FACILITATE EFFECTIVE
PLANNING OF OUR FUTURE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN THESE
COUNTRIES.

4. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE WASHINGTON CLEARANCE PRO-
CESS, POSTS ARE REQUESTED TYPE ASSESSMENT AIRGRAMS
DOUBLE-SPACED. THIS WILL SAVE ONE RE-TYPING BEFORE
TRANSMISSION FOR OTHER AGENCY CONSIDERATION. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED BANJUL.

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